

"Talk Back" between 1997 and 2000. On the show, Liz would hold on-the-air conversations with everyday residents, as well as local political figures.

One of Liz's most cherished accomplishments is to have served as the first female Mayor of Sonora between 2000 and 2002. Liz stepped down from the City Council, when she was elected to the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors in 2004. In 2002, she was recognized for her service on the City Council with the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce's "Excellence in Government Award."

Liz is leaving the Board of Supervisors after eight years of service as the District 1 Supervisor. During her time on the Board, Supervisor Bass worked hard to bring civility to boardroom dialogue; champion issues related to youth, seniors and affordable housing; privatize Tuolumne General Hospital; support recreation, library and behavioral health services; push for reforms in the County's solid waste program; initiate and complete an overhaul of the Board's committee and commission system; and provide the political leadership needed to establish the first ever Tuolumne County Flag.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Tuolumne County Supervisor Liz Bass on her retirement and commending her exemplary service to the community as an educator, member of the Sonora City Council, and representative on the Board of Supervisors.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
MORRIS PETTUS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my friend, Morris Pettus, for his unyielding service, accomplishment and leadership as a key member of my Congressional staff.

For nearly 10 years, Mr. Pettus worked with expertise, compassion and perseverance in addressing numerous issues of constituent concern. From veterans and military issues, to critical casts involving individuals in immediate crisis—he approached everyone who sought assistance with unwavering respect and dignity, working diligently to find a solution.

Mr. Pettus' concentration in the area of Veterans Services was invaluable to the citizens of northeast Ohio. As a liaison connecting veterans with local and Federal agencies, his work enabled thousands of veterans and active military members to find resolutions across a wide array of casework. Most significantly, Mr. Pettus' expertise and determination enabled countless veterans and their families to obtain crucial medical and disability benefits they rightfully earned and deserved.

Mr. Pettus quickly emerged as a trusted leader in my Congressional office. His positive energy, strong work ethic, insightful nature and wonderful sense of humor easily drew staff members to him, and he cultivated not only dynamic working partnerships, but lifelong friendships with his Congressional Staff colleagues.

His ability to connect with others extended outside the District Office, where he effectively represented me at numerous events, forming

vital bonds with community leaders throughout northeast Ohio. Everyone from colleagues to Members and leaders within our Cleveland community consistently sought his collaboration, ideas and advice. His influence upon all of our lives is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Morris Pettus, whose service as a member of my Congressional staff reinforced and advanced my work as a United States Congressman. His ability to tackle difficult cases on behalf of countless citizens, especially our veterans, served to empower, uplift and renew their lives. His service, framed by integrity and heart, will forever impact our entire community.

TOWN OF SHARON ADOPTS RESOLUTION TO PROTECT DEMOCRACY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the Town of Sharon, MA adopted a resolution calling on us to adopt a Constitutional amendment that would protect in the Constitution two important principles that have recently been undermined by narrow majorities in the Supreme Court. The Town of Sharon asks us to make it clear in the Constitution that only human beings and not corporations are to be given the rights of citizenship, and that unlimited election spending is not free speech, but rather a threat to democracy.

Mr. Speaker, it is particularly appropriate that the Town Meeting in Sharon, a very democratic forum of government, adopted these two principles in this resolution and asked us to put them into the Constitution because they are both important for the protection of our democracy. I submit the resolution from the Town Meeting of Sharon.

TOWN CLERK

Sharon, MA, December 3, 2012.

Article 10.

Voted: That the Town adopt the following resolution: To call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for ratification an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would firmly establish two principles:

1) Only human beings, not artificial entities such as corporations, are entitled to the rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

2) Election spending is not free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment, and is therefore subject to regulation by federal and state governments.

A True Copy.

Attest:

MARLENE B. CHUSED,
Sharon Town Clerk.

IN HONOR OF DR. YVONNE KENNEDY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay trib-

ute to an outstanding educator and public servant, Dr. Yvonne Kennedy. Sadly, Dr. Kennedy passed away on Saturday, December 8, 2012. A number of tribute events will be held in Mobile, Alabama starting December 14, 2012 and culminating with a State Funeral on Saturday, December 15 at 11:00 a.m. at the Mobile Convention Center.

Dr. Yvonne Kennedy was born on January 8, 1945. A Mobile, Alabama native, she and I were schoolmates in high school. She received an Associate's degree from S.D. Bishop State Junior College, a Bachelor's degree from Alabama State University and a Master's from Morgan State University. She also earned her Ph.D. from the University of Alabama and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee.

Dr. Kennedy was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in April 1979, representing the 97th District in Mobile County. Dr. Kennedy was at the forefront of the fight against Alabama's voter ID law. She was also a strong advocate of extending voting rights to ex-felons in Alabama. She served as Ranking Minority Member of the Economic Development and Tourism and the Children and Senior Advocacy House Committees. She also served on the Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure Committee.

Dr. Kennedy served as president of Bishop State Community College from 1981 to 2007. She was appointed as the second president after the passing of the first president, my father, Dr. Sanford D. Bishop, Sr., for whom the college was named. During her tenure, the college was expanded from one campus to three and dramatically broadened the curriculum.

After being initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in 1964 at Alabama State University, Dr. Kennedy served in several leadership positions from the local to the national level. She served as the sorority's 19th National President from 1988–1992. During her tenure as president of Delta, she launched SCHOOL AMERICA, a program to promote literacy issues. Under her leadership, Delta Sigma Theta completed the renovations of its national headquarters and made significant achievements in advancing its global impact.

Dr. Kennedy loved her community dearly, and in addition to representing it in the state legislature, she was actively involved within it. She served as Chairman of the Mobile County United Negro College Fund Campaign, Youth Director for the Board of Christian Education—Southeast Alabama Conference, and former Chairperson of the Alabama Legislative Black Caucus. She was also a member of the Board of the American Association for Higher Education and America's Junior Miss Scholarship Foundation, Inc., as well as a Trustee of Miles College in Fairfield, Alabama. She was a lifelong member of Stewart Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

On a more personal note, I first met Yvonne as a 12-year-old having to speak behind her on a Youth Day program at the Stone Street Baptist Church in Mobile. She wowed the congregation and made me determined never to follow her on a program again! While she matriculated at Bishop State Junior College, she was a student assistant in the President's Office. The President, my father, spoke often and proudly of her intellect, eloquence and leadership potential. While he died before she

was named to succeed him, he was proud that she and another former student were among the final candidates. Moreover, upon my father's death, she faithfully supported and assisted my mother, Mrs. Minnie S. Bishop, a "Delta Dear," during the sunset years of her life.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." Dr. Yvonne Kennedy certainly made a life worthy of emulation. We are all blessed that she gave so much to the Mobile community, the state of Alabama, and our great nation. The world is better because she passed this way. She will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Kennedy's family and friends during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

WALL OF HOPE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, although the newborn babies at Texas Children's Hospital are being cared for by high quality, experienced doctors, this does not ease the emotions that the parents are experiencing.

Their delicate newborn child is being examined, poked at, and operated on. As they sit there helplessly, the parents are given updates on their baby's complications and, consequently, their low odds of survival.

When the only news these parents hear is bad, it is difficult to remain hopeful. The environment created in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, NICU, is disheartening. Nevertheless, Texas Children's Hospital has found a way to inspire a light of hope for these parents and families.

The center's Family Advisory Committee has created a "Wall of Hope" to encourage families that have a baby staying in the NICU.

This wall presents pictures of the hospital's "miracle babies" and includes a writing of their unique stories. For future parents at the NICU, instead of pacing up and down the hallway worrying, they can now read success stories and hope that their child will be one of them, too.

Hope can provide a sense of strength. And for these parents, hope is the only thing that makes the situation bearable. To know that others have been in similar situations and now have beautiful, healthy children that survived against all odds.

And that's just the way it is.

DEPARTING MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC DELEGATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished group of Democratic

California Members whose terms will expire at the close of the 112th Congress: HOWARD BERMAN, JOE BACA, Bob Filner, LAURA RICHARDSON, PETE STARK, and LYNN WOOLSEY.

HOWARD BERMAN and I met in 1960 and were active members of the Young Bruin Democrats at UCLA. He has been one of my closest friends and confidants and it has been an honor to serve in the House of Representatives with him for the last thirty years. HOWARD is one of the smartest, hardest working, and most effective members of Congress. As the chairman and ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, he has used his unique skills to enhance America's security, strengthen our alliances, and advance the cause of peace between Israel and its neighbors. As the second most senior member of the Judiciary Committee, HOWARD is an expert on the complicated intricacies of copyright law and he has championed strong copyright protections to ensure the vitality of our nation's film, television, and music industry.

JOE BACA is the realization of the American Dream. The youngest of fifteen children, JOE worked as a laborer, served in the Army, and later earned a college degree. He was the first Latino elected to the Board of Trustees for the San Bernardino Valley College District and was later elected to the California State Assembly and the California State Senate. He came to Congress in 1999 and has served on the Agriculture Committee and the Financial Services Committee.

Bob Filner, who was just elected as Mayor of San Diego, also has a long history of public service. He was first elected to the San Diego Unified District Board of Education and served on the San Diego City Council and Deputy Mayor of San Diego. He was elected to Congress in 1992 and served on the Committee on Veterans Affairs, which he also chaired from 2007–2011, and was most recently the Committee's ranking member.

LAURA RICHARDSON has also devoted her career to public service. She started on the Long Beach City Council and was elected to the California State Assembly in 2006. She won a special election to Congress in 2007 and has worked hard during the last three years on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security.

PETE STARK's experience and knowledgeable voice on health care is leaving a void on the Ways and Means Committee that will be hard to fill. A champion of quality health care for four decades, PETE has been a strong partner in protecting the Medicare program and getting the Affordable Care Act enacted into law. PETE has never wavered in his commitment to the interests of seniors, the unemployed, children, and the disabled and our nation is stronger because of his service.

LYNN WOOLSEY has devoted her congressional career to the improving the lives of families and children in our nation and ending our wars abroad. As a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, LYNN has been a strong advocate for paid family leave, adequate child care, pre-school education, and a universal school breakfast program.

California and the nation owe a debt of gratitude to Reps. BERMAN, BACA, Filner, RICHARDSON, STARK, and WOOLSEY for devoting their careers to public service and working to improve the lives of others.

HONORING RUSSELL LIBBY, MAINE ORGANIC FARMING LEADER

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the recent passing of an influential leader in the sustainable agriculture movement, whom I have had the privilege to call a friend and colleague.

For over 30 years, Russell Libby worked to create and support a food system in Maine that is healthier for our bodies, Earth, and communities. He spent 17 years of that serving a critical post as Executive Director of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), the largest organization of its kind in the country.

During his tenure, the organization was instrumental in recruiting and mentoring the next generation of farmers, providing support for organic, sustainable agriculture practices, and connecting more consumers to local food and the people who produce it. A testament to MOFGA's success is its annual Common Ground Country Fair. The event now draws crowds of 60,000 people who want to learn about sustainable living, connect with local farmers and craftsmen, and enjoy Maine-grown food.

As someone who started a small farm 40 years ago, it's been a pleasure to watch Maine's revitalized agricultural economy over the last decade. Today, our farmers markets are thriving, our restaurants receive national acclaim for their focus on local ingredients, and two trends have arisen in contrast to the national picture. Our acres of land in agricultural production are rising and the average ages of our farmers are declining. Much of this is due to Russell's leadership.

But Russell's impact has not been contained to Maine. He was an effective and tireless advocate for national policy change. I was honored to invite him to Washington last May to testify before the House Agriculture Committee on the importance of passing a Farm Bill that better supports small, diversified farms.

As an economist, farmer, and poet, Russell knew what he was talking about. He could point to the numbers to show positive effects smaller-scale food systems have for our economy. He could speak from experience of the difficulties of operating a small farm. And he could clearly illustrate the good things that happen when we have a closer connection to the land and each other.

Earlier this month, we lost Russell to cancer at age 56. It's a tragic loss for our state and country, considering all we still have to do. Personally, I will deeply miss his friendship, wisdom, and advice. It's my hope that this body will do well by him and take his vision to heart. "I'm really not interested in standing over here in the local and organic corner for the rest of my life and waving, 'Hi, we're having fun over here,'" Russell said. "I'm really interested in this kind of food being available to everybody under the basic principle: enough for everyone, always."